

FIFF

30^e Festival International
de Films de Fribourg
11–19.03.2016

30th Fribourg International Film Festival, March 11 – 19, 2016

FIFF 30th edition: a tribute to women

Press release

As the FIFF prepares to celebrate its 30th edition, it continues to fight for diversity. Instead of proposing a retrospective of the last 29 festivals, the FIFF will mark this anniversary edition by asserting its trail-blazing legacy and pursuing its defence of those artists and cultures that must fight harder than the rest. The 30th festival pays a global tribute to women. This theme resonates throughout the entire festival programme, giving the public a rare chance to see a wide range of works in which a prominent place is held by women. Without departing from its principles of diversity, the 30th FIFF proposes a journey through the whole of film history from 1896 to 2016 on all continents, from Ida Lupino to African women directors, from Mira Nair to the fighters in the *Genre Cinema* section: *Fiercer than the Male*. All in all, the programme encompasses 126 films from 62 countries (a record), more than half of which were directed by women, and a hundred of which tell their stories. An exceptional edition deserves an equally exceptional Opening Night, which will take place in the presence of Federal Councillor Alain Berset in the main hall of the Théâtre Equilibre on Friday, March 11th. The first part of the programme will present a series of short films by Alice Guy, the very first woman director in the history of film. The second part of the evening will be dedicated to *The Kid* by Charlie Chaplin, a film dear to one of our 2016 special guests, Geraldine Chaplin. The screening will be accompanied by live music performed by the Fribourg Chamber Orchestra. Music will also resound at the festival's Closing Night, since the film chosen for the event is *Parched*, a feminist Bollywood comedy by Leena Yadav. From March 11 - 19, the whole city of Fribourg will take part in the celebrations, hosting no less than four exhibitions dedicated among others to François Truffaut, Kathe Burkhart or Namsa Leuba.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS: FEATURE FILMS AND SHORT FILMS

With thirteen feature films and some twenty shorts, the two FIFF International Competitions continue to showcase some of the year's finest productions, a majority of which are from Asia, Africa or Latin America. The films are presented in Swiss, European or world premieres, and all of the authors are personally invited to Fribourg.

WOMEN FIGHTING BOTH IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND THE CAMERA

After the western, the sports film, the disaster movie and the erotic film, the first of the new sections added after 2012 portrays women throughout the world who are fighting for their family, their job or their own survival. The 18 films that make up the programme of *Genre Cinema: Fiercer than the Male*, show the diversity of these struggles. The selection features the Indian biopic about female boxer *Mary Kom*, as well as *Boxing for Freedom*, a documentary about Afghan girl boxers. The section *Terra incognita: Being a Female Filmmaker in Africa*, is an invitation to discover the irrepressible creative impetus surging from the African continent, from the Maghreb to South Africa. *Le Challat de Tunis* by talented filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania will be shown for the first time in the German-speaking world on the occasion of the inaugural screening in Berne on March 7th.

SPECIAL TRIBUTES AND CARTES BLANCHES: CINEMA REVISITED

Who is the greatest female character in the history of cinema? What is the best film directed by a woman? The FIFF asked these two questions to one hundred women filmmakers throughout the world. Among the thirty people who answered was Agnès Jaoui. The festival will screen ten of the chosen films in the section *Decryption: And Woman Created the Cinema*. It would be unthinkable to pay tribute to women in cinema without mentioning the one affectionately referred to as "Mother", everyone's mother: Ida Lupino. On top of an outstanding career as an actress spanning the years from 1931 until 1978, she was also the first woman to set up a production company and to direct several films noirs in the midst of male-dominated Hollywood. Pierre Rissient, an important figure in the history of cinema, has accepted to lend his patronage to this festival section (*Hommage à...: Ida Lupino, by Pierre Rissient*).

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Following the Swiss-Lebanese Patrick Chappatte, the Canadian-Armenian Atom Egoyan, the Swiss-Russian Slava Bykov and the French-Romani Tony Gatlif, it's now the turn of the Indian filmmaker based in New York, Mira Nair (***Salaam Bombay***), to share her favourite films with the FIFF audience: ***Diaspora : Mira Nair and India***.

This is the first of the two main cartes blanches, the second of which was given to Geraldine Chaplin. After her surprise visit to the 29th festival edition, the FIFF couldn't resist asking her to present a selection of her favourite films, among which is "one of father's pictures", ***The Kid***, which will open the festival (***Sur la carte de Geraldine Chaplin***).

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

The 30th FIFF edition once again proposes special screenings for families (***FIFFamily in the Far East***), for seniors or for amateurs of night-time thrills (***Midnight Screenings***). ***Passeport Suisse*** is proud to present the Swiss premiere of Elena Hazanov's film ***The Puppet Syndrome***, as well as Ruxandra Zenide's ***The Miracle of Tekir***.

PLANÈTE CINÉMA: FILM EXPERIENCES FOR A YOUNG AUDIENCE

Planète Cinema has been committed for over 20 years to educating young audiences and has set up the largest school programme in Switzerland (over 10'000 children enrolled). **Planète Cinéma**'s programme also reflects this year's theme, with a selection of films that have left their mark upon the school programme throughout the years and that were either directed by a woman or are centred around an original female character.

FIFF FORUM: A SPACE FOR DIALOGUE ABOUT FILM

While preparing for this edition, the FIFF was faced with two types of reactions: enthusiasm and exasperation. Is the subject of women in film a valid one or not? This is the first question that several filmmakers and specialists will try to answer during the **FIFF Forum** organized in conjunction with the SSR. There will also be a workshop about creating a female character where actresses, filmmakers and screenwriters will share their practices.

THE ENTIRE CITY CELEBRATES

The anniversary will extend its scope to the whole city, and numerous cultural venues, exhibitions and concerts will be a part of the celebrations. Four exhibitions will be held before and beyond the festival week. The exhibition entitled "**Derrière la migrante, la femme**", organized by the City of Fribourg and **espacefemmes-frauenraum**, can be seen in the storefront windows of the shops in the Rue de Lausanne. The twelve portraits show an image of immigrant women very different from their usual representation as submissive or under qualified. After Paris and São Paulo, it is now Marly's turn to host the exhibition of **François Truffaut**'s work curated last year by the Cinemathèque française. The event is organized by the **Fondation APCd** and will be housed in the former Ilford factory premises. Based on a wealth of family archives, the exhibition allows us to delve deep into the oeuvre of Truffaut, a filmmaker passionate about cinema and who celebrated his love for women in his films. In collaboration with the **BCU**, the FIFF presents the series "**Mmabatho**" by Swiss-Guinean photographer **Namsa Leuba**, whose work focuses on reconciling African culture with its perception in the West. The **Fri Art centre for contemporary art** will host the first retrospective of **Kathe Burkhart**'s work in Europe. The American artist has created over 350 drawings and paintings that owe as much to punk collage techniques as to a more conceptual approach. Her unique work conveys a feminist critique of media representation while at the same time challenging the viewer's good conscience.

THE FIFF IN NUMBERS

This year the FIFF expects its number of viewers to stabilize at around 40'000 admissions. The festival has become an unmissable event for all audiences as well as for filmmakers, journalists and partners both local and international. One fourth of the viewers comes from cantons other than Fribourg and one fourth is German-speaking. A majority of women make up the FIFF audience. The CHF 2 million budget comes from the contributions of institutional partners, sponsoring agreements and admissions.

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SAVE THE DATES!

February 29	10:15	Press conference in Fribourg, presentation of the official programme
March 3	18:00	Opening «François Truffaut – Passionnément», Fondation APCd, Marly
March 7	18:15	Preview screening of <i>Le Challat de Tunis</i> by Kaouther Ben Hania, Ciné-Movie 1, Bern
March 8	18:00	Opening «Derrière la migrante, la femme», Rue de Lausanne, Fribourg
March 10	20:30	Fri-son fait son cinéma
March 11	18:00	Opening «Namsa Leuba – Mmabatho», BCU, Fribourg
March 11	19:30	Opening Night, <i>The Kid</i> by Charles Chaplin with Orchestra, Théâtre Equilibre
March 13	10:30	Brunch and opening «Kathe Burkhart – Bad Painting!», Fri-Art, Fribourg
March 19	18:00	Closing Night, <i>Parched</i> by Leena Yadav, Arena, Fribourg

NEW! DISCOVER THE TIMELINE OF THE FIFF

To celebrate its anniversary, the FIFF retrospects its history and offers an illustrated [timeline](#) of the last 29 edition's significant events.

ACCREDITATIONS

Accreditation requests are open until **March 1st 2016** on www.fiff.ch

TICKETS

Presales on www.starticket.ch start on Monday, **March 1st 2016**.

FIFF Direction

Thierry Jobin, Artistic Director

Giovanna Garghentini Python, Administrative Director

The team of the Fribourg International Film Festival

Please don't hesitate to contact us for any further information, interviews or photographic material. At the [press area](#) there are special documents for the 30th edition: fact sheet, history of the FIFF, editorial of Thierry Jobin

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